

have to pay for it. The cost is important.

I have said it a million times, and I will say it again: Reckless government spending causes higher inflation. It is a proven fact. And we are seeing the consequences of reckless spending across America right now.

Eighty-seven percent—eighty-seven percent—of Americans are worried about inflation. Low- and fixed-income families are having to cut back on purchases because of rising costs. I am hearing it from families across Florida who are worried.

A father of three in Jacksonville is temporarily helping take care of two other kids because their father is out of work. He has started working a second job driving Uber just to pay for groceries that are rapidly increasing in price. Now his Uber job is becoming less and less profitable because of the rising price of gas. Gas is up over 50 percent in 1 year.

A mother of four in Wauchula said that she used to be able to go to the grocery store and spend a certain amount for an entire month's groceries. Now she can't. Two hundred dollars in meat is no longer enough to feed her family of five. She has been forced to choose between gas to get to work and groceries for her family and is picking up extra jobs just to make ends meet.

I can relate to this. I grew up in a poor family. My mom would take in ironing for extra money. She would give either my older brother or me the exact change to go to the grocery store, but she said: You have to check the price of everything because things are going up in price, and if we don't have enough money, you cannot buy it.

A restaurant owner in Tampa told me that the cost of meat has gone up from \$9 a pound to \$18. Gas prices and food prices, coupled with the struggle to find workers, have been very hard on his business.

Another family in Kissimmee told me how hard it is to keep food on the table because everything is so expensive. They are having trouble keeping their car because of the cost of maintenance and gas, but if he doesn't have a car, he wouldn't have a way to get to work to take care of his family.

The price of gas affects nearly everyone. Right now, average gas prices are up nearly a dollar since last year. For a family who fills up their gas tank once a week, if they drive a car, that means Joe Biden raised their expenses \$600 a year. If they drive a truck, Joe Biden raised their expenses by \$1,000 a year.

So next time you hear a big promise, remember these stories. These are real people bearing the real cost of the Democrats' reckless spending in Washington.

Biden and the Democrats say they care about people, but they have done absolutely nothing to help families struggle to keep up with inflation. Their plan is to spend more money, not less.

We have nearly \$30 trillion in debt, and there are no plans to slow down. And that is exactly what we are seeing in this bill. We can't forget that this is just the start. CHUCK SCHUMER said it on the floor yesterday. This is just part one and leads to Biden's and the Democrats' \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree on their liberal priorities. These two bills are together. They are welded together. There is no separating them.

Right now, the message that President Biden and Democrats here in Washington are sending to the American people is clear: They don't care about inflation. They don't care that their reckless spending is causing prices to skyrocket. If that is the cost of getting their liberal wish list, so be it. They aren't focused on inflation or spending, just on more government dependency and control.

Just look at what is happening this week with new COVID mask and vaccine mandates. I had COVID, and I got the vaccine. I think people should get vaccinated. But that is not what this is about. It is not about taking a measured approach and following the science and telling exactly how they came to the conclusion. It is about creating fear and chaos to grab power and control you.

I am here to say that enough is enough. It is time to wake up to reality. It is time for every fiscally responsible Member of the Senate to join me to say we don't accept the status quo. We won't watch in silence while the futures of our children and our grandchildren are mortgaged and this Nation is driven deeper in debt with reckless and wasteful spending. We won't stand by while inflation wreaks havoc on our families and businesses. We can get spending under control, but we have to start accepting responsibility, and the time to do that is now. This isn't political. It is good government, and it is common sense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATION OF UR MENDOZA JADDOU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for almost 20 years, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, known as USCIS, has been charged with defending America's status as the land of opportunity. The Agency has nearly 20,000 employees. They operate in 220 offices around the world, where they provide assistance to immigrants seeking a new life in America and help protect America from any foreign threats.

But after 4 years of neglect and mismanagement under the Trump administration, USCIS is in dire need of leadership. Today, the Senate has an opportunity to provide that Agency with that leadership by confirming Ur Jaddou as USCIS Director. Ms. Jaddou may be the most qualified person ever to be nominated for this job. She has nearly 20 years of experience in immigration law, policy, and administration. She is the daughter of immigrants from Mexico and Iraq. She personally

understands the importance of ensuring our Nation's immigration system is both accessible and safe. And if confirmed, Ms. Jaddou would make history as the very first woman to lead USCIS.

Let me tell you a little bit about her background. Ms. Jaddou began her career working on immigration policy and oversight for 9 years in the House of Representatives. She worked for my friend and former colleague ZOE LOFGREN of California, who is the authoritative voice on immigration in the House of Representatives.

Following that role, Ms. Jaddou served as a senior official in the State Department and then as Chief Counsel at USCIS. As the Agency's highest ranking legal officer, Ms. Jaddou not only sharpened her mastery of immigration law, she also gained valuable experience navigating USCIS's administrative complexities and operations. As Chief Counsel at this Agency, she managed more than 220 attorneys who support the work of tens of thousands of USCIS employees who are located in offices around the world.

Ms. Jaddou's extensive background is exactly what we need at this moment.

As I mentioned, the Trump administration led a deliberate effort to undermine this Agency's work. You remember—anything relating to immigration, the Trump administration tried to create a problem. For instance, when the former President took office, USCIS had approximately \$800 million in cash reserves. Not bad. Four years later, those cash reserves had been virtually depleted, putting thousands of Federal employees at the Agency at risk of being furloughed in the middle of a pandemic.

These Federal employees deserve leadership that advocates for their interests and supports their work. Ms. Jaddou is that person. In fact, the union that represents over 13,000 USCIS employees published a letter in support of her nomination, writing: "Ms. Jaddou is well-acquainted with the significant financial and operational challenges facing the Agency."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a letter in support of her nomination as well. They wrote: "Ms. Jaddou's knowledge and experience would be indispensable in providing the critical leadership needed to stabilize the agency."

Leaders inside government and outside government recognize that Ms. Jaddou is the legal expert our Nation needs to take the reins of this vital Agency.

Given the urgent need for Senate-confirmed leadership to address the critical issues they face, as well as Ms. Jaddou's eminent qualifications for that position, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Mr. President, I would like to say a word in response to the speech just given by the Senator from Florida, the junior Senator from Florida.